PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

May 14, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION

From: J. Lee Rankin

Following his appearance before the Commission, Mr. Alan H. Belmont, Assistant to the Director of the FBI, identified an FBI letter of May 4, 1964, which lists each item in the FBI file on Oswald prior to the assassination. Mr. Belmont had the file with him and available to the Commission. He preferred, however, that the file not be introduced into evidence, since some of the entries would reveal the names of confidential informants or disclose secret techniques.

The Commission requested that the list of items in the file be marked to indicate whether a document was already in our possession, so that the Commission would only have to consider those items in the file which the Commission had not already received.

This has now been done in coordination with the FBI. Attached is a copy of the FBI letter of May 4, 1964. An asterisk has been placed in the margin marking each document which the Commission does not have. The words "cover page" have been placed in the margin at each investigative report, to indicate that the Commission has received the entire report, but not the cover page. The FBI advises that the cover page is an internal administrative document which shows the routing of a report and also the names or symbols of any confidential informant relied upon in the report.

The FBI is entirely willing to make the report available for inspection by the Commission. The report could be made available for review by each Commissioner interested in reading it, either alone or with the assistance of Mr. Belmont or another FBI representative. Perhaps a better alternative would be to recall Mr. Belmont for any further testimony on the Oswald file that might be desired after each Commissioner has had an opportunity to review the file.

Attachment